

person in the history of the Borough of Carteret to place the Wreath of Honor at the Carteret Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Carteret Park.

Joseph was recognized by the Carteret Veterans Alliance and the Senate and General Assembly of New Jersey as being a truly patriotic citizen and the youngest presenter of the Wreath of Honor at the Carteret Soldiers and Sailors Memorial. He was a special guest speaker in July of 2001 at the Rotary Club of Carteret, and was presented with an official Certificate of Appreciation. In addition, Joseph received a proclamation from Carteret Mayor Jim Failace, and was honored with a Joint Resolution from New Jersey State Senator Joseph Vitale, Assemblyman John Wisniewski, and Assemblywoman Arline Friscia.

Joseph is presently enrolled at Holy Family School in Carteret, New Jersey. He enjoys playing Basketball and Little League Baseball.

He is the son of Joseph and Bernadette Wutkowski.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joseph A. Wutkowski for his patriotism, and for honoring America's veterans in Carteret, New Jersey, and veterans all across America.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission. Since 1965, the ARC has fostered cooperation among the Federal Government, Governors of Appalachian States and local community leaders for economic development initiatives.

I am especially pleased the bill today adds Hart and Edmonson counties in my district to the Commission. Based on economic data, both of these counties fall into the ARC's distressed classification, the Commission's lowest economic status rank. I believe I can speak for these counties when I say they appreciate this opportunity for assistance in improving their economic situations.

This bill also changes the Commission's fund distribution, requiring half of its program funds to be directed to ARC's distressed counties. Distressed counties are the ones most in need of the extra development assistance ARC provides, and it only makes sense that we target a substantial portion of the project funds available to the areas most in need.

Membership in the ARC does not guarantee funds for local areas, but membership does give local development leaders an opportunity to apply for grants and make the case for their proposals to boost economic and social development.

I want to thank Chairman LATOURETTE for his support in adding these counties deserving of assistance to the Commission and for his support of economic development in Kentucky.

While I would have preferred that we were voting on the chairman's original legislation which included neighboring Metcalfe County in the Commission, I am pleased with this out-

come. We passed that legislation in August. Unfortunately, the other body did not agree to our version of the legislation, and we had to make this compromise. I hope the committee will consider adding Metcalfe County to the Commission in the future, as this area is also economically deserving of aid.

I appreciate the work of Chairman LATOURETTE and Chairman YOUNG in this process, and I urge the House's support for this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF HADASSAH'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the 90th anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. As the largest Jewish membership organization in the United States, Hadassah exemplifies the true spirit of voluntarism.

Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, a Jewish scholar and activist, Hadassah is committed to unifying Jewish people throughout the world. Its mitzvot, or good deeds, are felt at home in America and abroad in the land of Israel.

In Israel, Hadassah funds and maintains two hospitals and 90 outpatient clinics that treat 600,000 patients each year regardless of ethnicity or religious background. Hadassah also supports four other major organizations in Israel and the United States. The Hadassah Israel Education Services group provides cutting-edge technical and vocational training for Israeli citizens, while the Youth Aliyah program provides education and support to immigrant youth. The Young Judea program builds connections between American teenagers and Israel through student exchange partnerships and the Jewish National Fund works to preserve Israel's natural resources by constructing parks and planting trees.

The impact of Hadassah can also be felt throughout the United States. The organization is represented in every congressional district and members work with political leaders on matters ranging from U.S.-Israel relations to women's health and equality issues. Hadassah volunteers are active in community service projects, educational initiatives, and programs benefitting women and their families.

In my district of California, there are over 250 Hadassah members and six active chapters. These chapters have raised over \$5 million for the Hadassah Hospital and educational programs in Israel.

On this, its 90th anniversary, I salute Hadassah's efforts to promote education, welfare, and women's rights, that have helped preserve strong cultural ties with Israel.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 39 and No. 40, had I been present, I would

have voted yes. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the vote due to circumstances at home. Several Illinois steelworkers may lose their jobs due to the closing of a few large plants, and I felt the need to show my support for these workers and their families.

ARC OF MERCER COUNTY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, Norman Vincent Peale—a pastor and a motivational speaker—said “Change your thoughts and you change your world.”

Fifty years ago, more than 20 residents of Mercer County, many of them parents of developmentally disabled children, recognized a need in their community. The area lacked much needed education programs that addressed the special needs of their children. This included not only basic education but also the development of job and social skills. With that focus, they established what has evolved into the Arc of Mercer County.

Remember, this was a time when mental retardation was often misunderstood by society. Those who were developmentally disabled were quickly committed to asylums. It was believed that they could contribute nothing to the community. But, these Mercer County residents knew otherwise. They knew these precious individuals could enrich people's lives if they could find a way to integrate them into society. So with hope, optimism and faith, they actively sought donations of space, time and money to establish a program where children and adults with mental retardation could learn to support themselves, learn social skills and attend classes designed to meet their special needs.

These 20 families, through their actions and deeds, changed the way we view mental retardation forever, not only in their own community but worldwide. We now know that being developmentally disabled is not an end-all, they play a vital role in our economy while gaining independence for themselves.

MCAR has grown from a small patchwork organization who once borrowed classroom space from the Salvation Army and the American Legion to a powerhouse agency providing services to more than 500 individuals with mental retardation. Their services have expanded to include vocational training, residential services, employment services and recreation and socialization programming. MCAR owns 17 group homes, a campus of education facilities in Hermitage as well as a Mechenbier workshop in Greenville.

For 50 years, MCAR has given some very special people in the community the opportunity to stand on their own two feet. With their various programs, they are building new and better bridges, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live a full and productive life. I applaud the founding officers—Mrs. Peter Jarocki, Mrs. Frank Machuga, Mrs. Royal DeWeese, and Mrs. David Cooke—for working with the community to develop a program that helps so many. Under the leadership and inspiration of current CEO Bob Beech and his board, the vision of these families has only flourished.